



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 28, 2005

S. 97

Big Horn Bentonite Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on February 16, 2005*

CBO estimates that implementing S. 97 would not significantly affect the federal budget. Enacting the bill could increase offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending), but by less than \$5,000. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues. S. 97 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 97 would open 20 acres of federal land in Big Horn County, Wyoming, to bentonite mining. (Under current law, that land is closed to all mineral development.) Under the bill, the federal government would receive \$1 for each ton of bentonite removed from the affected land. Based on information obtained from the Bureau of Land Management about the amount of bentonite located within the affected land, CBO estimates that, over the next several years, S. 97 would generate a total of less than \$5,000 in offsetting receipts. We also estimate that any increase in administrative costs to the agency would be minimal.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Megan Carroll and Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis